

Message Text

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64

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 /090 W

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R 021428Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4456

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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PASS COMMERCE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG,SY

SUBJECT: SYRIA - DEPUTY PETROLEUM MINISTER ASKS FOR US COMPANIES' INTEREST

1. SYRIAN DEPUTY MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM AND MINERAL RESOURCES, ENG NADER S. NABULSI, HAS WRITTEN AMBASSADOR ASKING THAT EMBASSY BRING TO ATTENTION OF US PETROLEUM COMPANIES "SEVERAL AREAS" IN SYRIA WHICH ARE OPEN FOR EXPLORATION AND EXPLOITATION "ON THE BASIS OF WHAT IS CALLED PRODUCTION SHARING CONTRACT OR SERVICE CONTRACT." NABULSI ASKS THAT INTERESTED US COMPANIES CONTACT HIM DIRECTLY AT SYRIAN PETROLEUM CO., PO BOX 3378, DAMASCUS, SAR, CABLE PETSYPRIA. HE ALSO ENCOURAGED COMPANIES TO VISIT DAMASCUS TO OBTAIN NECESSARY FETA AND PRINCIPLES OF AGREEMENT.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS OUR MOST DIRECT, WRITTEN APPROACH FROM PETROLEUM MINISTRY. NABULSI, APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER AUG 8 (DEP MIN BURHAN ATA'EI CONTINUES, BUT IN CHARGE OF MINERAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SIDE), IS AGGRESSIVE AND WELL CONNECTED IN SARG.

MISSOURI-EDUCATED GEOLOGIST IN EARLY 1960' (FIVE YEARS IN US), HE HAS BEEN IN PETROLEUM MINISTRY SINCE RETURN TO SYRIA. HE ALSO ACCOMPANIED FIRST SYRIA IVP GROUP VISIT TO US IN JANUARY TO STUDY ERTS APPLICATION TO SYRIA. (IN TRANSMITTING NABULSI'S LETTER, SARG MFA LEFT ON DISTRIBUTION LIST: US, UK, FRANCE, ITALY, FRG, SPAIN, NETHERLANDS, YUGOSLAVIA, EAST GERMANY, NORWAY AND JAPAN.)

3. IN SEPT 2 DISCUSSION WITH ECONOFF, NABULSI EMPHASIZED HIS STRONG, INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY IN PETROLEUM MINISTRY AS REGARDS NEGOTIATIONS ON NEW AREAS. AUG 18 SARG ORDER APPOINTS NABULSI AS HEAD OF SPECIAL SARG COMMITTEE TO NEGOTIATE ALL NEW EXPLORATION CONTRACTS; THREE OTHER MEMBERS ARE SYRIAN PETROLEUM CO. DG ALI IBRAHIM AND DIRECTORS IN CHARGE OF EXPLORATION AND LEGAL DEPARTMENT. THIS SPECIAL COMMITTEE IS CHARGED TO REPORT DIRECTLY TO DEP PM FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MOHAMMAD HAYDAR AND PM MAHMUD AL-AYYUBI. THUS, NABULSI HAS BEEN GIVEN TOP-LEVEL SUPPORT AND POSITION INDEPENDENT FROM PETROLEUM MINISTER TO NEGOTIATE NEW CONTRACTS. NABULSI SAYS PRESSURE IS DEFINITELY EVIDENT FROM PRESIDENT ASAD ON DOWN TO GET MOVING AND NABULSI STRONGLY BELIEVES COMPANIES THAT HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MINISTRY PREVIOUSLY WILL FIND MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE IN DEALING WITH NEW, SEPICAL COMMITTEE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE STATE/ USDOC INFORMING APPROPRIATE US COMPANIES OF THIS LATEST SYRIAN EXPRESSION OF STRONG INTEREST IN AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN SYRIAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION. WHILE WE REALIZE SOME COMPANIES MAY BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT SYRIA (STATE 172097), IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO US IF COMPANIES WOULD CONFIDE IN US BACKGROUND ON THEIR APPROACHES TO SYRIAN OFFICIALS SO THAT WE MAY HAVE GUIDANCE TO USE IN ENCOURAGING NABULSI AND OTHERS TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. IN RESPONSE TO DAMASCUS 3182 SENT TO AMOCO, LELAND, C. ADAMS, PRESIDENT AMOCO INTERNATIONAL OIL CO., IN A COMMERCIAL CABLE, DID PROVIDE US WITH USEFUL BACKGROUND AND WE WERE ABLE TO ENCOURAGE NABULSI TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING WITH AMOCO AND CONTINUE CONTACTS WITH THIS EXPERIENCED AMERICAN COMPANY, WHICH HE PROMISED TO DO IMMEDIATELY. REQUEST DEPT INFORM AMOCO/ ADAMS OF SUBSTANCE OF THIS MESSAGE.

MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 02 SEP 1975
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D750302-0948
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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